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Scott J. Svonkin
President

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California Respiratory Care Board Elects Scott J. Svonkin President

The Respiratory Care Board of California (RCB) announces the election of Scott J. Svonkin to serve as the Board's President, effective Jan. 1, 2003. Mr. Svonkin succeeds Barry Winn, Ed.D., RCP, of San Diego, whose term expires Dec. 31, 2002.

Mr. Svonkin, was appointed as a member to the Board by Gov. Gray Davis in November 2001. Svonkin was elected by his fellow members to serve as the Board's new President at its recent meeting in Los Angeles. Mr. Svonkin is the youngest President in the history of this Board, while being one of the newest members of the RCB he has brought a new energy and a clear vision to the board from the first day of his service.

"It was tremendous honor to have been appointed to this board by the Governor and now to have been elected to lead it by my fellow members is very humbling. I am especially committed to doing all I can to lead this board during the crisis we face in Health Care today. Our Country and this great State face a historic need for health care professionals and it is our responsibility to do all we can to meet this challenge," said Board President-Elect Svonkin.

Stephanie Nunez, Executive Officer of the Board, said Mr. Svonkin has shown an unyielding commitment to leading the board and promoting the respiratory care profession. "His unique experience as an asthmatic make him a great champion and spokesman for the life-saving work respiratory therapists do every day," she said.

Mr. Svonkin has also demonstrated leadership with vision in his former positions as Chief of Staff to Assemblyman Paul Koretz, businessman with Prudential Insurance, member of Mayor Tom Bradley's staff, and a community college instructor at Los Angeles Valley College.

Mr. Svonkin, 36, of Sherman Oaks, is a longtime community activist with contributions spanning civic, political, cultural, educational religious activities. He has dedicated his life to public service through both traditional political work and grassroots volunteerism. Some of Mr. Svonkin's work includes: serving as Chair for B'nai B'rith Southern California Public Policy Center, Immediate past Chair for the Valley Alliance of the Jewish Federation's Community Relations Committee, Chairman of the Los Angeles County Insurance Commission, and a board member of the Children's Hospital L.A. Huckleberry Fund.

In his new role as Board President, said Mr. Svonkin, he will be dedicated to bringing awareness to the respiratory care profession, promoting career opportunities available in this field, and leading the Board in meeting many of its other strategic goals.

Respiratory therapists provide treatments for patients who have breathing difficulties and care for those who are dependent upon life support and cannot breathe on their own. Among a number of other diseases where respiratory therapists are involved in patient treatment, is Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), a disease capturing America's attention.

A landmark study, *Confronting COPD in America*, reports that COPD, a term used to describe airflow obstruction that is associated mainly with emphysema and chronic bronchitis is the 4th leading cause of death. There is a large and growing number of Americans affected by COPD. As America ages, it will be increasingly important to understand one of the leading causes of death and disability among middle-age and older Americans and those professional therapists who will be primary care givers.

The Respiratory Care Board protects and serves the consumer by enforcing the Respiratory Care Practice Act and its regulations, expanding the delivery and availability of services, and promoting the profession by increasing public awareness of respiratory care as a profession and supporting the development and education of all respiratory care practitioners.

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